

CLAIMS

I claim:

1. A passenger conveyor (20) system, comprising:
a plurality of steps (22) that follow a loop;
5 a drive machine (30) that propels the steps (22) in a desired manner;
a controller (32) that controls operation of the drive machine (30); and
a receiver (34) for receiving a wireless signal indicating a need to reduce a
speed of movement of the steps (22), the controller (32) reducing the speed responsive
to the received signal.
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2. The system of claim 1, wherein the controller (32) causes the drive machine
(30) to gradually change the speed of movement of the steps (22).
3. The system of claim 1, wherein the controller (32) automatically increases the
15 speed at a time corresponding to a time when a passenger providing the received
signal exits the conveyor.
4. The system of claim 3, wherein the controller (32) determines a travel time on
the conveyor (20) for a passenger providing the received signal and maintains the
20 reduced speed for a period corresponding to the travel time.
5. The system of claim 4, wherein the controller (32) uses information regarding
the speed of movement of the steps (22) and the distance that the conveyor (20)
carries a passenger to determine the travel time.
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6. The system of claim 3, wherein the controller (32) reduces the speed of
movement near a beginning of a passenger travel time, increases the speed during a
middle portion of the travel time and again reduces the speed near an end of the travel
time.
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7. The system of claim 3, wherein the controller (32) reduces the speed responsive to the received signal near one end of the conveyor (20) and then increases the speed subsequent to receiving the same signal near an opposite end of the conveyor (20).

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8. The system of claim 1, wherein the steps (22) move along a path between landings (24, 26) at opposite ends of the path and including at least one receiver (34) near each landing.

10 9. The system of claim 1, including a portable signaling device (40) that provides the wireless signal (42) and wherein the signaling device (40) is passive such that the wireless signal (42) is transmitted to the receiver (34) without requiring user operation.

15 10. The system of claim 1, including a portable signaling device (40) that provides the wireless signal (42) and wherein the wireless signaling device (40) includes at least one switch (44) that is selectively activated by a user to transmit the signal.

11. A method of operating a passenger conveyor (20), comprising the steps of:
moving the conveyor (20) at a first speed;
receiving a wirelessly transmitted signal (42) indicating a desire for reduced
5 conveyor (20) speed; and
reducing the speed responsive to the received signal.
12. The method of claim 11, including gradually changing the speed of movement
of the steps (22).
- 10 13. The method of claim 11, including determining a travel time on the conveyor
(20) for a passenger (60) providing the received signal and maintaining the reduced
speed for a period corresponding to the travel time.
- 15 14. The method of claim 13, including determining the travel time based upon a
speed of movement of the steps (22) and the distance that the conveyor (20) carries a
passenger (60).
15. The method of claim 13, including reducing the speed of movement near a
20 beginning of the travel time, increasing the speed during a middle portion of the travel
time and again reducing the speed near an end of the travel time.
16. The method of claim 11, including reducing the speed responsive to the
received signal near one end of the conveyor (20) and then increasing the speed
25 subsequent to receiving the same signal near an opposite end of the conveyor (20).

17. A system for controlling a speed of movement of a passenger conveyor (20), comprising:
- a controller (32) that commands a conveyor (20) speed;
 - 5 a remote signaling device (40) that provides a wireless signal (42) indicating a desire for a reduced conveyor speed; and
 - a receiver in communication with the controller (32) for providing the controller (32) information regarding a signal received from the signaling device, the controller (32) reducing the conveyor (20) speed responsive to the information
 - 10 regarding the received signal.
18. The system of claim 17, wherein the signaling device (40) comprises a portable transmitter that transmits the wireless signal (42).
- 15 19. The system of claim 17, including at least one receiver (34) near each end of the conveyor (20).
- 20 20. The system of claim 19, wherein the controller (32) reduces the speed responsive to the received signal near one end of the conveyor (20) and then increases the speed subsequent to receiving the same signal near an opposite end of the conveyor (20).
- 25 21. The system of claim 17, wherein the controller (32) determines a travel time on the conveyor (20) for a passenger providing the received signal and maintains the reduced speed for a period corresponding to the travel time.